

building and modernizing our schools. As a former teacher and the husband of a teacher, as a former legislator, I know firsthand the burdens and constraints that overcrowded classrooms and antiquated buildings place on our student, teachers and administrators.

Mr. Speaker, when I taught, I had so many students it was impossible to foster the proper learning and mentoring relationships that are necessary to provide quality education. In my district today, schools are struggling just to provide space. There are deplorable conditions. One school in my district does not have proper air conditioning, even sometimes no heat. One particular broom closet was vacated to provide a small library for our elementary students. One school in my district had to go to a local prison track for their track team to utilize for their team.

Mr. Speaker, these are unacceptable conditions today in which we seek to prepare our students for tomorrow and for our future. We have a great opportunity in this Congress to make these schools a national priority.

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#### CONGRESS MUST UPHOLD THE DELICATE BALANCE OF THREE SEPARATE BUT EQUAL BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

(Mr. METCALF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, this Congress has every legitimate reason to be deeply concerned about the President's barrage of, count them, 280 Executive Orders. Congressional authority is clearly at risk. Nowhere is it written that the President has any authority to issue Executive Orders. Our Founding Fathers reserved the responsibility of spending taxpayers' money to the people's representatives.

Mr. Speaker, the delicate balance of the three separate, but equal, branches of government is at stake. We cannot allow the President to issue Executive Orders that require the expenditure of Federal funds unless those funds are appropriated by Congress.

Recently, Mr. Speaker, I introduced H. Con. Res. 30 which reasserts the role and responsibility of Congress to enact the laws and appropriate Federal dollars. It seeks to curb the infringement of executive power on legislative authority. Furthermore, H. Con. Res. 30 will clarify any confusion regarding Executive Orders by emphasizing Congressional authority granted under Article 1, Section 8, of the Constitution.

Please join me in cosponsoring this bipartisan resolution.

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#### PRESERVING SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE AND PAYING DOWN THE NATIONAL DEBT

(Mr. WISE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, the Congress this year will undertake the most sweeping domestic legislation probably in 40 or 50 years and certainly, in the case of Social Security, the most sweeping changes since Social Security was created in 1935. So I think there ought to be some basic premises here, particularly as we look at, of all things, a budget surplus, something no one ever expected to see.

First, take 62 percent of that surplus and invest it in Social Security and in preserving Social Security. Preserve it for the 400,000 West Virginians that depend upon it.

Second, take 15 percent of that budget surplus, totaling 77 percent now, and save Medicare, for which 300,000 West Virginians depend upon for their basic health care, those over 65 and those who are disabled.

Third, take that surplus and pay down the national debt.

Mr. Speaker, now this is a program that America can rally behind: 62 percent for Social Security to preserve it, 17 percent to preserve Medicare and, finally, paying down the national debt. Let us get moving.

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#### HAITI: A CLIMATE OF INSTABILITY

(Mr. GOSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week Haitian Senator Toussaint was gunned down in front of his home in a gruesome, politically-motivated murder. Toussaint had been a member of the OPL, the political party that has controlled parliament in Haiti and is the opposition party for current President Preval and former President Aristide, and it is no coincidence that the loss of Senator Toussaint also means the loss of OPL's majority status in the Haitian Senate.

Mr. Speaker, it is also no coincidence that in Haiti those who are targeted for surveillance, intimidation and even worse are Haitian and American individuals who are working in support of the rule of law; free, fair elections; and economic improvement in that impoverished country.

The United Nations has called attention to the crises, noting there is increased polarization in the country and new risk to constitutional government, but there has been precious little word out of the Clinton administration.

Mr. Speaker, the crown jewel of their foreign policy is badly tarnished, and we need a new approach to Haiti's failed democracy. We are filing such legislation today, and I urge Members to read it and support it.

#### SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND MODERNIZATION

(Mr. WYNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the Democratic proposal on education and specifically the modernization of our schools.

Improving education in America requires all levels of government to pull their load. Today, local and State school systems are working very hard to improve education, but there is a Federal role. We ought to be providing assistance to local school districts who are trying to modernize their schools.

This problem takes on many faces. Perhaps the most obvious one is the face of temporary buildings in front of school systems. We have lots of temporary buildings that were supposed to be there for 1 year. They are now there for 10 and 15 years, and they are proliferating. They are growing these little pods. It is almost like Monopoly to see these little toy schoolrooms being built.

We need to address that problem.

We have systems that have major ventilation problems and major heating system problems and major air conditioning problems and leaking roofs, and we need to address that problem as well. And we have school systems that lack modern technology. Over half the schools in this country are not wired to assume the technology that exists today.

We need to modernize our schools. We need the Democratic plan.

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#### DEMOCRATIC AGENDA CO-OPTED FROM THE REPUBLICANS

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues know, yesterday the Democrats had a little love fest over in the Rotunda to talk about their agenda, and I was interested in this. I like to watch Democrats. After all, they are very interesting people when we really study them. And of course so much of their agenda they have co-opted from the Republicans. Our best agenda, for example, balancing the budget, paying down the debt, excellence in education, "S" for saving Social Security, "T" for lowering taxes.

The Republican's best agenda; that is what the Democrats are using.

But then they could not stop there. They had to put in something for the whacky fringe left element of their policy, spending 38 percent of the Social Security dollars. That is right. They are bragging, hey, we are going to save only 62 percent of Social Security, using 32 percent for non-Social Security items.